

to consider the following nominations on today's Executive Calendar: Calendar Nos. 624, 625, 626, 627, and nominations on the Secretary's desk. I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

COAST GUARD

The following named officer for appointment as vice Commandant of the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under Title 14, U.S.C., Section 47:

To be vice admiral

Vice Adm. Terry M. Cross, 4308

The following named officer for appointment as Commander, Atlantic Area of the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under Title 14, U.S.C., Section 47:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Vivien S. Crea, 9704

The following named officer for appointment as Commander, Pacific Area of the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under Title 14, U.S.C., Section 47:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Harvey E. Johnson, 0186

The following named officer to serve as the Director of the Coast Guard Reserve pursuant to Title 14, U.S.C., Section 53 in the grade indicated:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

RADM (L) James C. Van Sice, 3714

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

COAST GUARD

PN1433 Coast Guard Nomination of Glenn M. Sulmasy, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 12, 2004

PN 1434 Coast Guard Nominations (243) beginning George W. Molessa, and ending Yamasheka Z. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 12, 2004

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2329

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if cloture is not invoked on the motion to proceed to S. 2290, the asbestos bill, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2329, a bill relating to victims' rights, which was introduced earlier today by Senators KYL and FEINSTEIN. I further ask that S. 2329 be held at the desk, that there be no amendments in order to the bill, and debate be limited to 2 hours, with 30 minutes each under the control of Senators KYL, HATCH, LEAHY, and FEINSTEIN respectively. I further ask that upon the use or yielding back of the time, the bill be read a third time and the Senate

proceed to a vote on passage without any intervening action or debate. I further ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. J. Res. 1 be vitiated.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I believe—although I am never certain—that cloture will not be invoked on the asbestos bill. The reason I mention that is I think the work done by Senators FEINSTEIN, HATCH, KYL, and LEAHY has been tremendous on this piece of legislation that we are going to debate tomorrow. It was originally in the form of a constitutional amendment. Even though I was a cosponsor of that early on, I think this is the appropriate way to do it.

I am very happy this most important legislation will be completed tomorrow. We don't often get to pat each other on the back around here for co-operation, but certainly this is an indication that people have worked well together and it is very good for the people of our country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I will just add to the assistant Democratic leader's comments. There is a lot of work most people don't see. Certainly, you didn't see very much of it on the Senate floor over the last couple days. People have worked in a bipartisan way to pass a bipartisan bill. So I, too, congratulate the appropriate leaders on that bill.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2004

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m.; that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed to have expired and the Journal of proceedings be approved to date; that following the time for the two leaders, the Senate begin a period of morning business for 60 minutes, with the first half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee, and the second half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee; provided that following that 60-minute period the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2290, the asbestos bill; provided further, that there then be 60 minutes of debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking member and, following that debate, the Senate proceed to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COLEMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, tomorrow morning, following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the asbestos bill and the motion to proceed to the asbestos bill.

There will be an additional hour of debate prior to that vote on invoking cloture on the motion to proceed. I take this opportunity to thank Chairman HATCH and the many Members who have come to the floor to speak on the importance of this legislation. Indeed, both sides of the aisle have spoken to the critically important issue of an asbestos litigation system which is inefficient and, in many ways, run amok over its initial intention.

This vote is the beginning of the process and not the end. I have made that clear, hopefully, in every public statement and in every statement with my colleagues, as we have worked to negotiate this bill over the last week. It began several weeks ago when we set out on this course of bringing this to a real focus.

It is time to legislate on this important issue, and tomorrow's vote is an effort to work through many issues of the bill and to eventually produce an outcome.

If we are unable to invoke cloture on the asbestos bill, we are going to proceed to the victims' rights bill under the previous consent agreement. There will be up to 2 hours for debate prior to vote on passage of the victims' rights bill that was introduced earlier by Senators KYL and FEINSTEIN.

Therefore, Senators should expect at least two votes tomorrow. The first one will occur at approximately 11:30 in the morning on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the asbestos bill.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order following the remarks of Senator REID.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ASBESTOS LITIGATION REFORM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, let me, first of all, say I tried to not be the last person speaking in the Senate, as people want to go home. We have lots of people here, including the Presiding Officer. I was asked early yesterday to give a statement today, and certain people are expecting me to do this. So I apologize to all the staff. I will try to be as quick as I can. I do believe that the statement is one that is important.

Let me, first of all, comment on the statements made by Senators HATCH and SESSIONS—those statements I heard today dealing with the asbestos legislation. I acknowledge that it is important legislation.

For example, I met in my office with Ken Bowa from Nevada, one of the vice presidents of the Pfizer Company. You would not think that a company that manufactures pharmaceuticals would have an asbestos problem, but they do. They bought a company 30 years ago,